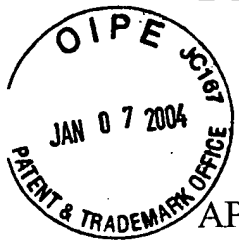


DT-6591



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Ulrich Birnbaum et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/638,179

FILED: August 7, 2003

FOR: CONNECTING ELEMENT FOR AN ASSEMBLY SYSTEM

EXAMINER: -.-

GROUP: -.-

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR sections 1.97 and 1.98, applicants respectfully request that the documents listed on the attached form PTO-1449 be made of record and considered in connection with the examination of this application. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed. A translation of the foreign language documents is not readily available.

The documents submitted herewith were cited in a Search Report issued in a German application corresponding to the above-referenced application.

The references do not suggest the arrangement of the claimed connecting element.

The Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before receipt of a first Office Action on the merits, accordingly, no fee is required.

It is believed that the subject application is patentably distinguishable over the listed references.

Respectfully submitted,



David Toren, Reg. No. 19,468

Dated: January 5, 2004

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
787 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019
Tel: (212) 839-7365

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail and addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 5, 2004.



Form PTO-1449

LIST OF PRIOR ART
CITED BY APPLICANT

Docket No.: DT-6591

Serial No.: 10/638,179

Applicant(s): Ulrich Birnbaum et al.

Filing Date: August 7, 2003

Group: -.-

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Init.		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if appropriate
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	COUNTRY	Class	Subclass	TRANSLATION Yes No
	AL	3 8 1 5 2 9	10/86	Austria			X
	AM	8 8 0 5 1 4 3	08/88	Germany			X
	AN	3 9 3 8 8 7 1	05/91	Germany			X
	AO	4 2 3 8 7 0 3	05/94	Germany			X
	AP	9 9 1 0 9 5 7	11/99	Germany			X
	AQ	9 9 3 7 8 9 2	01/01	Germany			X

OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR	
	AS	
	AT	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED